REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the final Office Action

dated September 12, 2006. By this communication, claims 1-3 and 22 have been

amended. Claims 1-23 remain pending, where claims 16-21 and 23 are withdrawn.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the instant application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting an interview to Applicant's

representative on December 6, 2006. During the interview, Applicant's

representative and the Examiner discussed the merits of the anticipation rejection

over the *Hamza* publication (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0146184). No formal

agreement was reached regarding the allowability of the claims. However, based on

the discussions Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarity.

In numbered paragraph 6 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as anticipated by the *Hamza* publication. Applicant

respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, among other elements, a step of determining the likelihood

that each window contains the object wherein each window is assigned a rank

probability and probability rank ordering the multiple windows based on the step of

determining. Claim 1 encompasses an exemplary embodiment, as shown in

Applicant's Figures 1-7, in which segmented windows are displayed in an order such

that those windows most likely to contain target information are arranged with

respect to those windows having a lesser likelihood to contain target information.

The *Hamza* publication discloses a method for object detection that catches

an image of a monitored area and divides that image into portions or segments. The

size of each segmented window is chosen so that it is no bigger than the

approximate size of the smallest object for which detection is desired. These segmented windows are positioned in a display such that the entire area to be monitored is covered by overlapping segmented windows.

In numbered paragraph 4 on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the *Hamza* publication teaches the claimed determining step by detecting objects which are smaller than a mask window. Applicant disagrees with this assertion. Moreover, the *Hamza* publication does not teach or suggest that each window is assigned a rank probability as recited in Applicant's claims. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the *Hamza* publication fails to anticipate claim 1. Because the *Hamza* publication fails to teach every element recited in claim 1, Applicant requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

In numbered paragraph 7 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 5-15, and 22 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 3, and 22 have been placed into independent form. As a result, this objection is rendered moot.

By the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant has addressed all outstanding rejections and objections raised in the final Office Action dated September 12, 2006. Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is in condition for allowance and requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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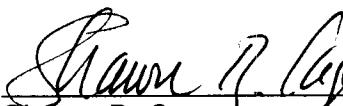
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